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AP Literature and Composition

Mr. Lane

14 December 2009

Six Word Memoir

Lost someone special, learned valuable lesson.

I chose to write my memoir about the loss of my grandfather because of what his death taught me. This memoir exemplifies me because I took what happened to heart, and I now try to work harder at my relationships. At the time of my grandfather’s death, I was not close to him at all, and throughout my life had barely gotten to know him. Becoming close with my grandfather was a challenge, since we lived in completely different states, but I still felt guilty about our lack of familiarity. A bond shared with a person’s grandparents is important, and I feel like I missed out on that bond. My family and I definitely visited my grandparents, but not to the degree where we could truly get to know each other. It is sad, but I almost felt like we were not true family. I was very young, and I guess I just didn’t realize that the phrase “you never know what you’ve got till it’s gone” is so true. After my grandfather died, I chose to work on the lack of relationships with other relatives. Whenever I visit my family members now, I remind myself that each minute I am with them, a better relationship forms.

I chose “lost” as the first word of my memoir instead of a synonym such as “misplaced” because “misplaced” is a word that I think should go with an item a person cannot find anymore. Lost fits better with the subject matter of my memoir. I decided to use “someone” instead of “person” because “person” would not fit well with the order of other words used in the memoir. I chose “special” instead of a synonym such as “unique” because “special” is more heartfelt, and sounds more appropriate with the type of person my grandfather was. I used “learned” in place of “discovered” because the lesson took time for me to figure out, rather than something I quickly realized. I chose “valuable” instead of “important” because something that is valuable is irreplaceable, whereas something important may not mean as much. Lastly, I decided to use “lesson” as opposed to “example” because “lesson” is a word that represents something learned that will last longer than a simple example would. I came across this idea for my memoir because the lesson I learned is very important to me and seemed appropriate for a memoir focusing on something I will never forget.